

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 9, 18, and 21 are independent. By the foregoing Amendment, Applicants seek to amend claims 1 and 9 and add new claim 21. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

Objection to Claims 1 and 9

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1 and 9 because of informalities. By the foregoing Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9 to accommodate the objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and remove the objection.

Rejection of Claims 1-5, 9-13, and 18-20 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 9-13, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious by U.S. Patent No. 6,356,122 B2 to Sevalia et al. (hereinafter “Sevalia”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,636,249 to Roither (hereinafter “Roither”). To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, an Examiner must show three things: (1) that there is some suggestion or motivation to modify a reference or combine reference teachings to arrive at the claimed invention, (2) that there must be a reasonable expectation of success, and (3) that the references teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention (MPEP §2143). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Rejection of Claims 6 and 14 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In paragraph 14 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 6 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sevalia in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,818,270 to Hamza (hereinafter “Hamza”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Rejection of Claims 7-8 and 15 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In paragraph 18 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 7-8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sevalia as applied to claim 1 and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,977,837 to Byrn (hereinafter “Byrn”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Rejection of Claims 16-17 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In paragraph 23 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sevalia as applied to claim 1 and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,742,798 to Goldrain (hereinafter “Goldrain”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

New Claim 21

New claim 21 recites in pertinent part “*a counter* to determine whether the rising edge of the delayed feedback clock signal is early or late with respect to the falling edge of the feedback clock signal; and a *digital-to-analog converter (DAC)* to cause a delay of the second delay element to increase if the delayed feedback clock signal is early with respect to the falling edge of the feedback clock signal, the digital-to-analog converter (DAC) to cause the delay of the second delay element to decrease if the delayed feedback clock signal is late with respect to the falling edge of the feedback clock signal (emphasis added). Support for these changes according to at least one embodiment can be found in Applicants’ Specification on page 9, first full paragraph, and in Figures 3 and 6.

Applicants respectfully submit that Sevalia, Roithier, Hamza, Byrn, and/or Goldrain, either alone or in combination teach or suggest at least these elements of new claim 21. accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 21 is patentable over Sevalia, Roithier, Hamza, Byrn, and/or Goldrain, either alone or in combination.

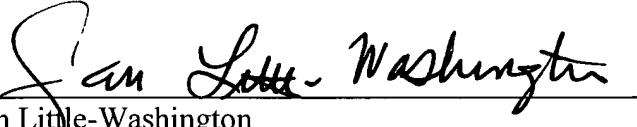
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all grounds for rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot, and that the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

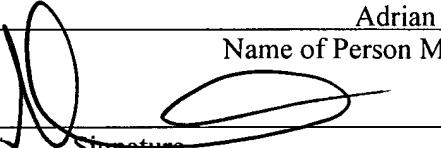
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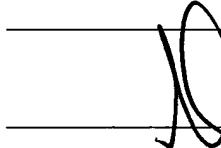

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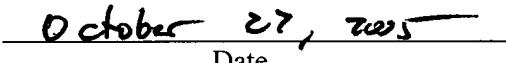
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